

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the extruder extrudes product from a tip end thereof. Basis for this is found in the description at page 1, lines 9-17 that the invention relates to extruders which extrude material from the tip ends thereof.

The rejection based on the prior art has been withdrawn. Claims 10-13 have instead been newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as lacking written description for the recitation that the screw set is rotatably supported at only one end.

Applicants had previously explained that the term "extruder" is a term of art which has a specific meaning to those in the art of plastic processing: a device which performs extrusion by forcing molten material through a shaping device attached to the end of the extruder. As such, it would be understood by those skilled in the art to be limited to devices which have one or more screw sets supported only at one end and force molten material through a shaping device attached to the other end of the extruder. *Kirk Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology* was cited as evidence. This was explained in the context of the disclosed invention which relates to extruders which extrude material from the tip ends thereof, but this limitation had not yet been introduced into the claims, as it has now been.

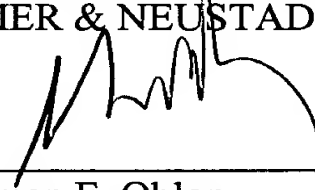
In reply, the examiner has cited several U.S. patents which allegedly disclose extruders which are supported at both ends. However, all of these patents, other than U.S. patent 2,351,493 (Curry), disclose devices in which the material is pushed out laterally from a mid-portion of the device. Thus they are not material to the question of whether extruders in which product is extruded from the tip end will inherently be supported at only one end. Curry is directed to a piston extruder and so is also immaterial to whether extruders in which product is extruded from the tip end will inherently be supported at only one end.

The claims are now limited to extruders in which product is extruded from the tip end. As such, those skilled in the art would have understood that they are inherently supported only at one end. This is evidenced by *Kirk Othmer, supra*. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that written description for the subject matter of the present claims is found in the original disclosure.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
RTP:aif

Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099